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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,468	11/13/2003	Robert J. South	4003-10702	9401
30652	7590	08/03/2006		EXAMINER
CONLEY ROSE, P.C. 5700 GRANITE PARKWAY, SUITE 330 PLANO, TX 75024				CHAN, SING P
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/712,468	SOUTH, ROBERT J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sing P. Chan	1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17,27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17,27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/24/04&6/7/06</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of group I, claims 1-17 in the reply filed on May 17, 2006 is acknowledged. The examiner also acknowledges the cancellation of the non-elected claims 18-26.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim in line 5, recites "a quilt top patterns" and since there are more than one pattern, "a" should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-14, 16, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 1 provides for the use of fusible quilt batt, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

6. The claims recite the limitation "the adjacent material" in claim 16, line 2, claim 27, lines 2-4, and claim 28, line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-17, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chumbley et al (U.S. 5,716,687) in view of Wright et al (U.S. 3,540,975).

Chumbley et al discloses a method for using a fusible bonding sheet. The method includes providing a fusible bonding sheet, which includes non-woven fibers held together with adhesive (Col 4, lines 1-9), i.e. a non-woven batt, with a coating of heat activated adhesive (Col 3, lines 1-10), i.e. thermoplastic adhesive, providing pieces

of fabric, i.e. quilt, applying the fusible batting to one of the pieces of the quilt, applying a remaining piece of quilt to the remain side of the batt, applying heat with the use of steam iron to melt the heat sensitive adhesive, which increase the tackiness and allowing the bond site to cool to bond the pieces together. (Col 3, lines 43-67)

Chumbley et al is silent as to the applying heat to the laminate, peel and repositioning the portion, replacing the portion, and applying heat to the material to re-bond the laminate. However, applying heat to the laminate, peeling, and repositioning the portion, replacing the portion, and applying heat to the material to re-bond the laminate is well known and conventional as shown for example by Wright et al. Wright et al discloses a method of iron-on trims. The method includes providing iron-on trims with thermoplastic adhesive resin (Col 3, lines 42-62), applying the iron-on to the material and applying heat to activate the thermoplastic adhesive (Col 5, lines 54-75), and if there is a need to adjust the position of the bonding, the iron-on only need to be heated again to soften the adhesive to permit the tape to easily be peeled from the laminate (Col 6, lines 51-56) and repositioned and re-ironed (Col 6, lines 14-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to applying heat to the laminate, peel and repositioning the portion, replacing the portion, and applying heat to the material to re-bond the laminate as disclosed by Wright et al in the method of Chumbley et al to provide a means to permanently remain in place unless intentionally removed despite numerous wet and dry cleaning operations. (See Wright et al, Col 2, lines 12-16)

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sing P. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1225. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-11:00AM and 12:00PM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A. Fiorilla can be reached on 571-272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SPC


CHRIS FIORILLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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